

18

Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Council Members
Michelle Anderson
Jo Anne Johnson
Dain P. Kane
Danny A. Mateo
Michael J. Molina
Joseph Pontanilla
Charmaine Tavares



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.co.maui.hi.us/council/

May 17, 2006

2006-0170
(1 copy received)
Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

C: CC

WK

JK

SKD/M

LYK/A

JL

NK

BGK

PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

2006 MAY 19 A 11:34

FILED

Public Utilities Commission
Carlito Calibuso, Chairperson
465 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Maui Less Than Container Load (LCL) Service Changes

Chair Calibuso and Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my concerns over the pending application filed April 13, 2006 by Young Brothers, Ltd. requesting to discontinue Less than Container Load (LCL) service to and from Maui in January 2007. I understand that Young Brothers, Ltd. has requested a PUC decision by June 1, 2006.

My office has received many expressed concerns from Maui County businesspersons, farmers, vendors, consumers and residents regarding this matter. I share their concern for the potential action to limit LCL service by Young Brothers, Ltd.- the sole enterprise offering inter-island barge service to our County. I understand that it is the intent of the PUC to suspend this application to allow for Public hearings to be conducted. I entirely support this intent and effort to allow citizens and consumers most impacted by this decision the opportunity to express their concerns.

The ramifications of a hurried approval of this application without acceptable options for consumers, will noticeably result in substantial increases in cost to those who frequent or need LCL service, foster hindrance in receiving goods due to involvement of process in the practice of using commercial freight consolidators, increased transport costs presumably to be absorbed by the general consumer, inhibit economic activity between products purchased and transported to and from Molokai and Maui, and effectually deregulate rates charged for LCL service as forwarders are not subject to PUC tariffs and are at liberty to charge what the market will bear.

The stated impetus for consideration of action on this application is harbor congestion at Pier 2 as a result of the impacts of the proposed Super Ferry improvements and the crowding of activities in the located area. It is unfortunate that the

May 17, 2006
Page 2

Super Ferry's operation and harbor use plans have been vague and imprecise of detail, making it difficult for consumers to conclude that suspending direct LCL service is the only definitive alternative for Young Bros., Ltd. in addressing the approaching space predicament.

I support the Public Utilities Commission in proceeding with public hearings on this matter on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. I encourage the Commission through investigation to explore alternatives that will allow for the uninterrupted preservation of LCL service throughout Maui County.

I thank the Commission for the consideration of my comments on this matter.

Respectfully,


JOSEPH PONTANILLA,
COUNCILMEMBER